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*Outgoing quarantine transactions.*

## Passed Assistant Surgeon Hobby reports, April 11:

Week ended April 4:	
Vessels fumigated and certified.....	72
Vessels certified.....	45

*Reports from Seattle, Wash.—Plague-prevention work—Plague rats found.*

## Passed Assistant Surgeon Glover reports, April 6:

*Week ended April 4.*

Rats received .....	1, 040
Rats necropsied .....	934
Rat found plague infected.....	1
Plague rats to date.....	6
Vessels fumigated .....	5

The last case of plague at Seattle died October 30, 1907. During the week ended April 4, 1908, one rat, found March 25, 1908, was proven to be plague infected.

The "old depot" mentioned in the telegraphic report of plague rats found at Seattle [see Public Health Reports, April 10, 1908, page 443, and April 17, 1908, page 477] is situated on the east side of Railroad avenue at the foot of Columbia street, and separated from the immediate water front by a broad stretch of railroad tracks. All of this district is built on piling over low-lying tide ground, and the custom has been for years to use the space beneath the buildings as a receptacle for sewage and garbage. This particular block has in it a meat market with a sail loft overhead, a butter factory, a curio store, a restaurant, a fruit and candy stand, two commission houses, an express office, and a secondhand store.

The meat market, butter factory, and restaurant have been closed by the health commissioner. The peculiar difficulty of making an efficient campaign against the rats in this locality lies in its topography. Along the whole water front and extending back to solid land, a distance of perhaps two city blocks, is an open space under buildings infested by rats, and filled with refuse, constituting unlimited food and shelter for them. It is therefore impossible to define any limits to the focus of infection other than to say in general terms the water front. An effort is to be made to obtain a more definite location of the rats brought in from this district.

*Summary of laboratory work and fumigation of vessels at Seattle during the month of March and week ended April 11, 1908—Changes in the system of municipal health department.*

## Assistant Surgeon Chapin reports, April 1, 6, and 13:

The following is a report of the work done in the plague laboratory during March, 1908:

Four thousand four hundred and nineteen rats were delivered at the laboratory, of which 3,610 were examined post-mortem. No positive diagnoses have been made, but a number are still under consideration.

About three-fourths of the rats are brought in by the bounty men. Over half of all rats are from the water front. Most of the others are from the business section and very few are brought from the residence districts. The location where the rats were obtained is determined with as much accuracy as possible, but often, especially in the case of water-front rats, the information on this point is not very precise.

Most of the rats belong to the species *Mus decumanus*, though a few of the species *Mus rattus* are received. No systematic effort is made to obtain mice (*Mus musculus*), though a few are brought in occasionally upon special request.

From time to time rats brought in alive are searched for fleas. The flea count during the month has been found subject to great variation, due to factors not definitely determined. Some lots average less than a flea to a rat, while the highest count was 68 fleas from one lot of 8 rats. Thirty-five rats searched during the month have yielded 127 fleas. No fleas have been found upon mice (*Mus musculus*), though several lots have been searched.

During the month of March, 18 ships were fumigated for the destruction of rats.

During the month a change was made in the municipal health department. A commissioner of health was appointed March 23 to supersede the former board of health. The new commissioner now has charge of all the departments of public health and can use all of them to assist in the plague prophylactic work. He desires the assistance and support of the Service officers here and expressed his appreciation of the work done by the laboratory. I have assured him that the officers here will support and assist him in this work.

Week ended April 11:

Rats received .....	956
Rats necropsied .....	877
Rats found plague infected.....	2
Date of finding of last plague rat.....	March 30, 1908
Plague-infected rats to date .....	8
Vessels fumigated .....	5

#### STATISTICAL REPORTS OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY, STATES AND CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES—UNTABULATED.

**CALIFORNIA—Oakland.**—Month of March, 1908. Estimated population, 225,000. Total number of deaths not reported. Four deaths from enteric fever and 9 from tuberculosis. Cases: Diphtheria 12, enteric fever 4, scarlet fever 5, smallpox 9, measles 16, whooping cough 3, and tuberculosis 2.

**San Diego.**—Month of March, 1908. Estimated population, 40,000. Total number of deaths, 84, including diphtheria 1, enteric fever 1, and 17 from tuberculosis. Cases: Diphtheria 1, enteric fever 1, scarlet fever 8, and measles 1.

**San Jose.**—Month of March, 1908. Estimated population, 34,000. Total number of deaths, 35, including measles 1, and 1 from enteric fever. Cases: Diphtheria 4, enteric fever 4, scarlet fever 10, measles 18, and smallpox 52.